IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

5   1.   (**Currently amended**):   A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, one or more of ~~said~~ the first plurality of clients and ~~said~~ the

10 second plurality of clients being designated as an active speaker, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

15 (2) designating ~~said~~ the connection as an active speaker on ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server;

(3) receiving, over ~~said~~ the connection, a first audio packet from ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein ~~said~~ the first audio packet is a mixture of packets

20 received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(4) receiving, by ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein

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~~said~~ the plurality of audio packets comprises a second

audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients

who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~said~~ the

packet-switched conferencing server; wherein ~~said~~ the

5   plurality of audio packets are received using an

asynchronous transmission method;

(5) forwarding, over ~~said~~ the connection, ~~said~~ the

second audio packet to ~~said~~ the circuit-switched

conferencing server;

10   (6) mixing ~~said~~ the first audio packet with ~~said~~ the

second audio packets from the first—plurality of clients

into a composite packet; and

(7) forwarding ~~said~~ the composite packet to each of

the first plurality of clients connected to ~~said~~ the

15   packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients,

using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously

participate in a single audio conference application; ~~and~~

whereby ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server

20   is independent from ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing

server;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server keeps

a list of the plurality of clients who have been designated

as an active speaker.

2. (**Withdrawn**): The method of claim 1, wherein said

composite packet is forwarded with echo suppression.

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3. (**Currently amended**):   A method of linking a first

plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched

conferencing server to a second plurality of clients

connected to a packet-switched conferencing server,

10 comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched

conferencing server, a connection to ~~said~~ the packet-

switched conferencing server;

(2) designating ~~said~~ the connection as an active

15 speaker on ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(3) receiving, over ~~said~~ the connection, a first audio

packet from ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server,

wherein ~~said~~ the first audio packet is a mixture of packets

received from each of the second plurality of clients who

20 have been designated as an active speaker by the ~~said~~ the

packet-switched conferencing server; wherein ~~said~~ the

~~plurality of audio~~ mixture of packets are received using an

asynchronous transmission method;

(4) receiving, by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein ~~said~~ the plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients
5 who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(5) mixing ~~said~~ the first audio packet and ~~said~~ the second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

(6) forwarding ~~said~~ the one combined audio packet to
10 each of the first plurality of clients connected to ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing server; and

(7) forwarding, over ~~said~~ the connection, ~~said~~ the second audio packet to ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server;

15 whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; ~~and~~

whereby ~~said~~ the packet-switched conferencing server is independent from ~~said~~ the circuit-switched conferencing
20 server;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of the plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

4.   (**Currently amended**):   A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched

5   conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to establish, by said packet-switched

10   conferencing server, a connection to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing

15   server;

third computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of

20   packets received from each of ~~the~~ said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said circuit-switched conferencing server;

fourth computer readable program code means for . causing ~~the~~ said computer to forward said first audio

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packet to each of ~~the~~ said first plurality of clients connected to said packet-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to receive, by said packet-switched

5   conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of ~~the~~ said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of

10 audio packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

sixth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said circuit-switched conferencing

15 server;

whereby ~~the~~ said first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; ~~and~~

20 whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

5. (**Currently amended**): A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first

5 plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing

10 ~~the~~ said computer to establish, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to said packet-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to designate said connection as

15 an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said packet-switched conferencing server,

20 wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of ~~the~~ said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by ~~the~~ said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said ~~plurality~~

~~of audio~~ <u>mixture of</u> packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ <u>said</u> computer to receive, by said circuit-

5   switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of ~~the~~ <u>said</u> first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server;

10   fifth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ <u>said</u> computer to mix said first audio packet and said second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

sixth computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ <u>said</u> computer to forward said one combined audio packet

15   to each of ~~the~~ <u>said</u> first plurality of clients connected to said circuit-switched conferencing server; and

seventh computer readable program code means for causing ~~the~~ <u>said</u> computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said packet-switched

20   conferencing server;

whereby ~~the~~ <u>said</u> first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.